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Docket No.: 213252US0PCT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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RE: Application Serial No.: 09/926,100
Applicants: Bruno PROVOT, et al.
Filing Date: September 28, 2001
For: NEUTRON ABSORBENT MATERIAL
CONTAINING BORON CARBIDE AND HAFNIUM,
AND PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING THIS
MATERIAL
Group Art Unit: 1731
Examiner: C. Fiorilla

SIR:

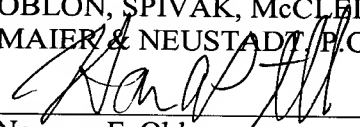
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

AMENDMENT (CONTAINING NEW ABSTRACT)

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
BRUNO PROVOT ET AL : EXAMINER: FIORILLA, C.
SERIAL NO: 09/926,100 :
FILED: SEPTEMBER 28, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1731
FOR: NEUTRON ABSORBER MATERIAL
BASED ON BORON CARBIDE
AND HAFNIUM AND METHOD
FOR MAKING SAME

QB/KW
12/23/02

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 2, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) Process for manufacturing a neutron absorbent material, said material being a composite material containing boron carbide and hafnium, comprising the following steps:

- adding hafnium powder to a powder of boron carbide,

B